



## California Department of Fish and Game Deer Management Program 2005 Deer Zone Information

Wildlife Programs Branch  
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### Sacramento Valley and Central Sierra Region

General Deer Hunting Information For

## **ZONE X-8** **and** **Area-Specific Archery Hunt A-15** (Includes Additional Hunt J-7)

### **GENERAL INFORMATION FOR DEER HUNT ZONE**

This information sheet has been prepared to assist deer hunters applying for, or planning to hunt in, Zone X-8 located in portions of Alpine and El Dorado counties. The following information should be useful to hunters for archery season (A-15; Zone X-8 Archery Hunt), Zone X-8 general season and any "additional hunts" within this geographic area. For more specific information or additional questions regarding this area, contact the Sacramento Valley and Central Sierra Region Office, 1701 Nimbus Road, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670 (916-358-2900).

### **REGULATIONS**

Laws and regulations are designed to conserve wildlife and to provide for an equitable distribution of game mammals. The hunter who knows the laws and regulations can enjoy the hunting experience more. All hunters should read and be familiar with the current hunting regulations available online at: <http://www.fgc.ca.gov/html/regs.html> Remember you must obtain and have in your possession written permission to hunt on private property. Hunter trespass laws are strictly enforced.

The 2005 deer hunting regulations specific for Zone X-8 (general season tag), Area-Specific Archery Hunt A-15 (archery season only tag), and any additional hunts are at the end of this sheet.

To hunt deer during the archery season in Zone X-8, hunters must possess an A-15 hunt tag (Zone X-8 Archery Hunt). This tag is valid **ONLY** during the prescribed archery season and **may not** be used to hunt deer during the general zone season, even if using archery equipment.

To hunt deer during the general season (rifle) in Zone X-8, a hunter must possess a Zone X-8 tag. This tag is valid **ONLY** during the prescribed general season for that zone. These tags **may not** be used to hunt deer during the Hunt A-15 archery season, even if using archery equipment.

This zone is a popular deer hunting area with lower tag quotas. Any additional deer hunts in Zone X-8 are listed in the Additional Deer Hunts section, below. Typically, tags for Zone X-8, Hunt A-15 and any additional deer hunts are in high demand and distributed through the Department's Big Game Drawing held in June. To hunt in this area, hunters must plan ahead and are encouraged to submit hunt applications by late May. For information regarding deer tag application procedures and obtaining a deer tag for this area, see the Big Game Hunting Booklet, available on-line at:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/biggame/biggamebook.html>

Successful hunters are reminded to immediately fill out both portions of the tag and permanently mark the date of kill; attach the tag to the antlers, or ear if antlerless; have the tag validated and countersigned; and return the completed report card portion to the Department within 30 days of taking a deer.

### **LAND OWNERSHIP/PUBLIC LAND OPPORTUNITIES**

Zone X-8 is comprised mostly of public land. Public lands within Zone X-8 are administered by the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest (USFS). For information regarding these lands contact the following:

#### **USFS Offices:**

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, 1200 Franklin Way, Sparks, NV 89431 (775-331-6444)

Hunting is also allowed on the Hope Valley and Heenan Lake Wildlife Areas, administered by the California Department of Fish and Game. Access to these wildlife areas is permitted by foot only. For information and maps of these wildlife areas contact the Sacramento Valley and Central Sierra Region Office, 1701 Nimbus Road, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670 (916-358-2900).

In Zone X-8 and other zones throughout California, additional deer hunting opportunities may exist on private property licensed through the Department's Private Lands Management Program (PLM). For more information on the PLM and to obtain a list of participating ranches, go to the following link:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/plm.html>

### **MAPS**

For general maps detailing individual zone or additional deer hunt boundaries, go to the following link:

[http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/deer\\_maps.html](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/deer_maps.html)

The most comprehensive map of the area is the Toiyabe National Forest map. USFS maps are available at all USFS offices or you can contact the USFS Pacific Southwest Regional Office at: 1323 Club Drive, Vallejo, CA 94592 (707-562-8737).

BLM surface management maps may also be useful. You can purchase these maps at BLM district offices or you can contact the BLM at 2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-1834, Sacramento, CA 95825 (916-978-4400).

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps, are very helpful, especially for topographic features that are not displayed on USFS or BLM maps. USGS maps may be available from sporting goods, backpacking or engineering stores or you can contact the USGS directly at: Rocky Mountain Mapping Center, Branch of Information Services, Box 25286, Denver, CO 80225 (888-ASK-USGS).

### **ACCESS/MAJOR ROADS**

Access to the Zone X-8 is good. The major routes include Highways 50 and 89 from the north and Highways 88 and 4 from the west. Access within the zone is fair. Getting to the higher ridges in the Hope Valley area requires walking. The USFS road to Hawkins Peak is closed. In the Carson-Iceberg Wilderness Area, found south of Highway 4, two pack stations provide services. One is located at Wolf Creek; the other at Rodriguez Flat on the Mono-Alpine County line.

### **WEATHER CONDITIONS/TRAVEL TIPS**

The weather in this region is highly variable so BE PREPARED. Weather during the deer season is variable. Daytime temperatures are usually mild but nighttime temperatures generally drop below freezing. Snow can occur at any time during the season and be severe. Thundershowers are common. You should be prepared with appropriate clothing and equipment for a variety of weather conditions.

The terrain in Zone X-8 can be very steep and rugged and vegetation can be extremely dense. As you should do in all remote areas, hunters are urged to bring a shovel, a good spare tire, extra water, etc. Use care when operating any vehicle off-road and check with the BLM or USFS for rules and regulations regarding vehicle and travel restrictions in the area. Horses can be useful in some portions of X-8.

However, remember that it may be necessary to carry supplemental horse feed into the back country. Contact the local USFS and/or BLM office for more information regarding forage conditions for livestock.

### **CAMPING**

There are several USFS campgrounds within Zone X-8 and these are shown on the map of the Toiyabe National Forest. Informal camping is allowed on both USFS and U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands, but campfire permits are required. Permits may be obtained from any USFS, BLM or California Department of Forestry (CDF) office. During fire season, special regulations may apply and it is best to contact the local USFS, BLM or CDF office for the latest information.

Please, DO NOT camp or hunt for prolonged periods near water sources important to wildlife and livestock. Remaining for over 30 minutes and within 200 yards of an artificial water source including guzzlers or horizontal wells on public lands within California is a Fish and Game violation (Title 14, Section 730). You can pack water, wildlife can't.

### **HARVEST INFORMATION**

Information on deer harvest for this area is available in tables contained in the annual Deer Kill Reports available on-line at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/deerhunt.html> The most useful tables for the purposes of planning or applying for hunts in this area are Tables 1b (Harvest and Success Information), 2a (Antler Class Information) and 10b (Drawing Statistics).

### **HERD CONDITIONS AND HABITATS**

The deer population in Zone X-8 is considered stable to slightly declining, yet considerably below levels seen in the late 1960's and 1970's. As with most deer herds in California and other western states, the long-term population trend has been on a steady decline since the 1960's and 1970's. These long-term declines have been due to land management practices that have precluded fire, resulting in changes toward more mature and less diverse habitats, and reduced quality and quantity of deer habitats. Short-term fluctuations in deer populations are usually attributed to weather events that affect forage production.

The subspecies of deer inhabiting Zone X-8 is primarily the Rocky Mountain mule deer however you may encounter Columbian black-tailed deer in western portions of the zone. Deer in Zone X-8 are considered migratory. Deer in this area generally move to higher elevations near the Sierra Crest in early May and will remain until the first heavy fall storms force them down below the snow line east of the Sierra Crest and, ultimately, into Nevada. This downward movement can occur during the hunting season, so hunters should be prepared to move to lower areas later in the season after stormy weather.

The vegetation is highly varied throughout Zone X-8 ranging from low sage, sagebrush, bitterbrush, montane chaparral, aspen, hardwood-conifer, juniper-pinyon and conifer to alpine habitats. Generally speaking, deer populations in this area respond favorably to vegetation disturbances that enhance brush species (wildfire and timber harvesting). Riparian areas (areas along watercourses), recently burned areas or clear cuts that have re-sprouted with brush are good areas to hunt. Typically, lower densities of deer are observed in the more densely forested areas or in older, more decadent brushlands.

### **HUNTING TIPS AND WHERE TO LOOK FOR DEER**

Successful hunters often spend a considerable amount of time scouting pre-season, locating individual or groups of deer, recently used deer trails, and feeding and bedding areas. You may not see many deer from the roads in this area and generally the more successful hunters do more hiking to locate deer. Binoculars and/or spotting scopes can be very helpful for locating and identifying deer at greater distances. In general, attempt to hunt areas that are away from other activities such as concentrations of hunters, vehicles, and/or livestock.

Generally, the best hunting is near stands of bitterbrush, mountain mahogany, or tall sagebrush, and clear cuts that have re-sprouted with brush. The habitat varies from sagebrush flats at the lower elevations to mixed conifer forests to rimrock areas covered by mountain mahogany at the higher elevations.

Historically, some of the more popular and productive areas in Zone X-8 include: Ridges around Hope Valley. Some of the specific sites are Steven's Peak, Red Lake Peak, Forestdale Creek, The Nipple, Markleeville, Hawkins and Pickets Peaks; Raymond Peak and Raymond Meadows areas; Monitor Pass and Leviathon Peak areas, south to Dump Canyon; south slope of Silver Mountain and Dixon Creek in the Carson-Iceberg Wilderness Area; Murray and Golden Canyon at the headwaters of the East Fork of the Carson River; Mineral Mountain area between the East Fork of the Carson River and Silver King Creek; west of Heenan Lake in the area of Silver Hill; and Haypress Flat northwest of Monitor Pass.

For additional information about deer hunting in California, see the Department's publication "Guide To Hunting Deer In California" at the following web site:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/deerguide.pdf>

### **ADDITIONAL DEER HUNTS**

In 2005, one additional hunt opportunity exists in Zone X-8: 1) Hunt J-7 (Carson River Junior Either-Sex Deer Hunt). For general maps detailing the individual hunt area boundaries, go to the following link:

[http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/deer\\_maps.html](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/deer_maps.html)

### **2005 ZONE AND ADDITIONAL HUNT SPECIFIC REGULATIONS**

#### **§ 360. Deer.**

Except as otherwise provided in this Title 14, deer may be taken only as follows:

##### **(b) X-Zone Hunts.**

###### **(12) Zone X-8.**

(A) Area: In those portions of Alpine and El Dorado counties within a line beginning at the junction of the California-Nevada state line and Highway 50; southeast along the California-Nevada state line to the Indian Springs Road, south to the Alpine-Mono County line; south along the Alpine-Mono county line to the Sierra crest; northwest along the Sierra crest to the intersection with the Pacific Crest Trail near Wolf Creek Pass; northwest along the Pacific Crest Trail to Highway 50 at Echo Summit; northeast on Highway 50 to the point of beginning.

(B) Season: The season in Zone X-8 shall open on the fourth Saturday in September and extend for 16 consecutive days.

(C) Bag and Possession Limit: One buck, forked horn (See subsection 351(a)) or better, per tag.

(D) Number of Tags: 275.

##### **(c) Additional Hunts.**

###### **(29) J-7 (Carson River Junior Either-Sex Deer Hunt).**

(A) Area: That portion of Alpine County within the area described as Zone X-8 (see subsection 360(b)(12)(A)).

(B) Season: The season for additional hunt J-7 (Carson River Junior Either-Sex Deer Hunt) shall open on the first Saturday following the closure of the X-8 general season (see subsection 360(b)(12)(B)) and extend for 9 consecutive days.

(C) Bag and Possession limit: One either-sex deer (see subsection 351(c)) per tag.

(D) Number of Tags: 15.

(E) Special Conditions:

1. Only junior license holders shall apply (see subsection 708(a)(2)).

2. Tagholders shall be accompanied by an adult chaperon 18 years of age or older while hunting.

###### **(44) Conditions for Special Hunts.**

(A) When hunting on military reservations or private lands, hunters shall have in their possession a written permit signed by the landowner, which may specify where and when the permittee may hunt.

(B) When required, tagholders shall check in and check out of designated check stations.

#### **§ 361. Archery Deer Hunting.**

(b) Archery Hunting With Area-specific Archery Tags. Deer may be taken only with archery equipment specified in Section 354, only during the archery seasons as follows:

##### **(13) A-15 (Zone X-8 Archery Hunt).**

(A) Area: As described in subsection 360(b)(12)(A).

(B) Season: The archery season for hunt A-15 (Zone X-8 Archery Hunt) shall open on the third Saturday in August and extend for 23 consecutive days.

(C) Bag and Possession Limit: One buck, forked horn (see subsection 351(a)) or better per tag.

(D) Number of Tags: 30.

(c) Archery Hunting with Archery Only Tags. Deer may be taken only with archery equipment specified in Section 354, during the archery seasons and general seasons as follows:

(1) Number of Archery Only Tags Permitted. A person may obtain an archery only tag using a one-deer tag application and a second archery only tag using a second deer tag application.

(2) Zones in Which Archery Only Tags are Valid. An archery only tag is valid for hunt G-10, and during the archery season and general season in all zones except C-1 through C-4 and X-1 through X-12.

(3) Areas: As described in subsections 360(a) and (c).

- (4) Seasons: The archery season and general seasons are provided in subsection 361(a) above and in subsections 360(a) and (c).
- (5) Bag and Possession Limit: All bag and possession limits per zone are the same as those described in subsections 360(a) and (c).
- (d) Hunting Area Limitations. Archers not in possession of an archery only tag may hunt only in the zone, zones, or areas for which they have a general tag or an area-specific archery tag. (Refer to subsection 361(c)(2) for zones in which archery only tags are valid).
- (e) Crossbow Prohibition. Except as provided in subsection 354(j), crossbows may not be used during any archery season or during the general season when using an archery only tag.

\*\*\*\* GOOD LUCK! \*\*\*\*